

80 Continental Drive
Lansing, KS 66043
March 26, 2017

Colorado State Office
US Bureau of Land Management
2850 Youngfield St.
Lakewood, CO 80215

Attn: Oil and Gas

Subject: June 2017 Oil and Gas Lease Sales – Granby, Colorado
Parcels 7822, 7823, 7824, 7825, 7826 and 7835

The letter I am sending to you today contains no ecological measurements, no empirical scientific figures, no environmental impact assessment results, no percolation test outcomes, nor reports of professionals in the business of protecting lands from oil and gas drilling. Rather, I am writing about magic, magic of the immeasurable and conversational kind. It is the magic that happens every summer season at the nearly century-old Drowsy Water Guest Ranch in Granby, Colorado. There, summer after summer, literally hundreds of children and teens are transformed from citified, urbane, bored and phone-addicted youth to adventurous, independent, nature-appreciating youngsters, thanks in part to the longstanding cooperative agreement between the DWR and the BLM via the Special Recreational Permit of some 2300 user days each summer.

In the past 28 years, I have witnessed this phenomenon on a regular basis, as I myself have been a DWR guest with my family and friends over a dozen times.

An integral part of that nationally recognized family program has been the children's independent wrangler-led trail riding into the BLM lands that skirt the ranch's private property. The Drowsy Water Ranch's back country riding program is the main focus of its weeklong schedule. The daily rides quickly leave the ranch's private land and traverse steep, rough and rugged terrain, with winding trails in and out of aspen- and pine-forested acres of BLM land.

I cannot imagine the soul-crushing disappointment children and their work-weary parents would feel in the future having to negotiate mining operations on formerly pristine back country trails. I am sure if they were aware of a plan to decimate those spectacular unspoiled vistas by peppering them with oil rigs and noisy traffic, they would converge upon the site with their handmade signs and protest banners in order to protect the experience not only for themselves but for all the families who would follow them in the future.

The Drowsy Water Ranch provides this magical experience to children, teens, their parents and grandparents with a formula that works only in cooperation with the BLM. Although I certainly understand the importance of business development, I respectfully request that you recognize the more important value of human development in this case and exempt the BLM land tracts related to the Drowsy Water Ranch from oil and gas lease sales.

Sincerely,



Martha J. Allen
913-775-8008
mallen4108@aol.com

001-BLM
COLORADO STATE OFFICE
DENVER, CO 80202
MAR 31 AM 11:13